



CLIENT SPOTLIGHT: STORIES OF NEW HOPE AND COURAGE



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Simply stated, assistive technology are those products, equipment, and systems that augment the activities of daily living for the blind and visually impaired. Our client, Richard Green, pictured left, is an individual who has embraced the world of assistive technology. OrCam glasses and Amazon's Alexa are just two of the devices that assist Richard throughout his day. Supplied by the VA, OrCam glasses take photos of whatever he looks at or points to and it reads the text or identifies the object. The OrCam glasses also include Face Recognition Technology. Alexa, the virtual assistant, plays Richard's favorite music, provides the news, weather, and sports, and no, Richard does not buy into the "conspiracy theory" that Alexa is not only listening, but also spying on him!

Pictured above, Richard using a CCTV, which enlarges text for easier reading.

One of the simpler assistive devices that Richard uses are dots. The dots are strategically placed in his kitchen and one example is the microwave. A dot is on the #2 pad for identification so that when he wants to cook his food for 2 minutes, he uses the "dotted" pad. To the left of the dot is the one-minute pad and to the right is 30 seconds. In addition to having apps on his computer that have reading technology, Richard also has an iBill, a talking money identifier which can recognize the denomination of U.S. dollars, which ensures correct and safe money transactions.

Instruction on the use of assistive technology devices such as Richard's and many more can be learned at the Lackawanna Blind Association. Our instructors can help others become as independent as Richard. For more information on any assistive devices, please contact the Agency. Your generous donations and faithful fundraising efforts make it possible for us to offer such life-changing services! Thank you!

MAGIC WORLD OF VISION POSTER CONTEST



Winners of the Magic World of Vision poster contest enjoyed a pizza party and a show by Damian the Magician at the LBA office on May 15th. Third-grade students from Lackawanna County participated in a Prevention of Blindness eye health and safety educational program throughout the school year. Ten winners were chosen from among numerous entries. Winners are pictured from left to right, seated in the front row: Michael Jackson, Russell Rinaldi, Eliel Tanguilig; and standing in the back row: Anne Lawler, Prevention of Blindness Specialist; Anilyhn Parker, Adeline Biondo, Samantha Sawyer, John Stavish, Liza Froncek, Olivia Wasp, Isabella McNulty, Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director; and Damian the Magician.

The mission of the Lackawanna Blind Association is to support and promote the interests of the blind and visually impaired, and the prevention of avoidable blindness.

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CELEBRATING OUR 89TH ANNUAL HELEN KELLER DAY WE THANK OUR COMMUNITY FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Pictured at right are just a few of our fabulous & fun models! All of the fashions were generously donated by Small Frye's Children's Boutique, Ann Taylor Loft, and Pierre's. Pictured below are Helen Keller Day Co-Chairs Judy Pronko and Michele Albright. These hard-working women spearheaded the successful event which raised \$32,160 for the Lackawanna Blind Association!



Our 89th Annual Helen Keller Day Fashion Show & Luncheon was held Sunday, March 25th. This year saw a change in venue as the event was held at Fiorelli's in Peckville.



WNEP's Jon Meyer and Renie Workman (pictured left) served as fashion show emcees while the newly-added Wine Pull feature offered numerous donated bottles of wine from supporters such as Mark Lucchi (pictured right) of the Lucchi Family Wine Cellars. Since 1929, the Lackawanna Blind Association has been the beneficiary of the hard work and commitment of dedicated Helen Keller Day volunteers (Friends of the Blind) who coordinate one of the longest-running fundraising events in the community. This well-attended event allows the Lackawanna Blind Association to continue to provide services and programs in both Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties.



THE 32ND ANNUAL WILLIAM J. JORDAN, M.D. MEMORIAL SWING FOR SIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

The 32nd Annual William J. Jordan, M.D. Memorial Swing for Sight Golf Tournament was held on June 18th at the Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit. Special thanks go to our major sponsors, Northeastern Eye Institute, First National Community Bank, and Essilor of America and to our corporate sponsors, Ayers Supply, Inc., Northeastern Security Systems, and ShopRite of Daleville & Mt. Pocono. Thanks also to our event Co-Chairs, Dr. William J. Jordan, Jr. and Jerry Champi, committee members, volunteers, and all who came out to golf! The tournament raised an estimated \$44,000. The proceeds from this event will help the agency continue our programs for the blind and visually impaired throughout Lackawanna County.



Blindfold Putting Challenge
At left, golfer, Pete Montana, tries to sink a putt while wearing a blindfold.



Out on the Course
Golfers Scott Thorpe, Dick Eckersley, and Bill Durkin enjoying the afternoon!

YOU GIVE LIGHT TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!

"LBA gives me freedom to do what I did before my visual impairment. At the Agency I enjoy friendship, "Comedy Hour", and lots of laughs with good people!"

~Marty McKeel, Taylor



"I have a caseworker whom I can count on to complete important tasks I could not do myself. For example, grocery shopping, filling out checks, and reading my mail to me."

~Robert Moschorak, Scranton

"I'm thankful that I have a caseworker that can help me all the time with information and forms. I appreciate receiving all the latest updates on technology to help me maintain my independence!"

~Alice Goodall, Scranton

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING A GIFT!

Lackawanna Blind Association does not share donor information with anyone, other than publishing a list thanking donors by name only. Donors may also request that their gift remain entirely anonymous.

PISTACHIO PIE

1 package Pistachio Instant Pudding
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained
1 handful flaked coconut
1 handful of chopped walnuts
8 oz. Cool Whip, thawed
1 graham cracker crust

In large bowl, combine pudding mix, pineapple, coconut, and walnuts. Fold in Cool Whip. Pour into crust. Chill 2-3 hours.

Garnish with whipped cream and chopped pistachios when serving, if desired.

From THE TRUE NO MEASURE COOKBOOK
Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Council of the Blind



DID YOU KNOW?



When you shop on Smile.Amazon.com, you can **support** the Lackawanna Blind Association? You will still be shopping on the Amazon website and receiving the same pricing, however, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price when you select the **Lackawanna Blind Association** as the charity of your choice!

Visit **Smile.Amazon.com** to sign up or click on the link on the Lackawanna Blind Association website Home Page to start your support today!

ASSISTIVE DEVICE: SUNU BAND

The Sunu band is a sonar-equipped smartband that adds an extra layer of sensory perception for the blind and visually impaired. Using echolocation via a series of haptic pulses, Sunu band detects objects up to 15 feet away from the wearer's waist and head. The band's vibrations will fluctuate depending on the location of the object encountered. Sunu band should be used in conjunction with a guide dog, cane, or sighted guide. Added confidence, accident reduction, and increased awareness are just a few of the benefits afforded to the blind and visually impaired while wearing the Sunu band.

Please contact the agency at 570-342-7613 for information on obtaining this item and other assistive devices.



ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The Annual Meeting of our Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 26th, at Coopers Seafood Restaurant in Scranton.

Pictured from left, seated:
Noreen Burke, Vice Chair; Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director; Dr. Debra Pellegrino, new board member. Standing: Atty. Jerry Musheno, Immediate Past Chair; William Donovan, new board member; Karl Pfeiffenberger, Chair.



Retiring board member, Ron Leas, was presented with a plaque and will continue as an honorary board member. Pictured at left, Atty. Jerry Musheno, Immediate Past Chair; Ron Leas, and Mary Lou Wascavich, Executive Director.



Light the Way Legacy Society

The *Light the Way* Legacy Society was formed in 2012 as a way to invite our community members to include the Lackawanna Blind Association in their estate planning and to honor those who notify us that they have done so. Members of the *Light the Way* Legacy Society can have the special satisfaction of knowing that their life's efforts will continue to make a difference. Legacy gifts become a permanent part of LBA's endowment, ensuring that LBA can continue to provide compassionate care for its blind and visually impaired family. Legacy gifts also may be designated for a specific purpose or as a memorial or tribute to loved ones.

SPOTLIGHT ON DR. REBECCA SCHOONOVER, O.D.

Dr. Rebecca Schoonover, O.D. is an optometrist and owner of Schoonover Eye Care in Peckville. “More than just glasses and contacts”, Dr. Schoonover diagnoses and treats diseases of the eye such as glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration. Her new office is located at 240 Main Street in Peckville and just opened on March 26, 2018. The office is about four times larger than her previous one and now accommodates two exam rooms, a retina & glaucoma room, and a contact lens room. The spacious waiting room is cleverly designed, very tranquil and welcoming, offering infused water and fresh fruits. There are over 700 hundred different selections of eyeglass frames to choose from at Schoonover Eye Care.



For the past 13 years, Dr. Schoonover has hosted Cocktails for a Cause, an annual fundraiser held to benefit Research to Prevent Blindness and the Lackawanna Blind Association. A desire to have a “party with a purpose” with good food and good drinks lead to the creation of Cocktails for a Cause which also honors a fellow colleague and friend, Thomas Mann, who had a “passion for helping people”, a similar trait of Dr. Schoonover. She happily “invests in our local community by creating new jobs and keeping business in the valley”. She is also an active member of the Friends of the Blind for the Lackawanna Blind Association.

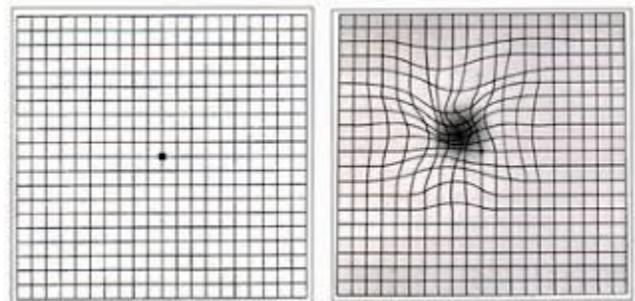
For more information on Dr. Schoonover and her practice, visit her website at www.icare4eyes.com or her Facebook page at Schoonover Eye Care.

AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

Age-Related Macular Degeneration, or AMD, is the most common reason people in the U.S. lose their eyesight. In AMD, the macula, which is part of the retina, is damaged and affects the central vision of the eye. The ability to see faces, read a book, drive a car, or watch television are just a few activities of daily living that AMD impacts. AMD is also the leading cause of vision loss in people 50 years or older.

An Amsler Grid, shown below, can aid in early detection of Age-Related Macular Degeneration. To use the grid, follow these steps:

1. Keep the grid in a place you will see it everyday, such as your refrigerator door.
2. In proper lighting, look at the grid from 12-15 inches away and if you normally wear reading glasses, use them to look at the grid.
3. Cover one eye while looking at the center dot on the grid, below left, with the other eye. Notice if any of the lines, or any part of the grid looks blurry, dim, or out of shape as in the grid, below right.
4. Now cover the other eye and test again using the same directions as in #3.
5. Call your ophthalmologist as soon as possible if you notice that any lines or parts of the grid look wavy, blurry, or dim.



Information courtesy of the
American Academy of Ophthalmology

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- * Have an extra hour or so that you would like to spend in the company of grateful individuals?
- * Hoping to set a good example by volunteering your time and/or skills?
- * Would you like to meet new people and use your skills in a productive way?
- * Want to make a difference in your world today?

Consider becoming a Friend of the Blind and volunteering with LBA in the near future. You just might be surprised how much you enjoy it!

TO NOTIFY US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR IF YOU WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AND PRESS 5 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE.

United Way of
Lackawanna and Wayne Counties



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

84th ANNUAL DREAM GAME

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

7:00 p.m.

VALLEY VIEW
FOOTBALL STADIUM
IN PECKVILLE

TICKETS: \$10

Sponsored by the
Scranton Lions Club
for the benefit of the
Lackawanna Blind Association

A collection basket
for unwanted
eyeglasses will be
available at the
Dream Game.
Please donate
if you can!



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